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JORDAN BASS

OF

FRANKLIN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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I. JORDAN BASS, SON OF JACOB BASS, SR., OF  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

**2222720**

In 1791 Jacob Bass, Sr. died in Franklin County, North Carolina where he owned land on Sandy Creek. In 1771 Jacob Bass owned land on Sandy Creek<sup>1</sup> in what was then Bute County, but later was included in Franklin County. Also it is here we find a deed dated May 10, 1775, signed by Jacob Bass and wife Anne Bass<sup>2</sup>. As early as January 19, 1761 in Edgecomb County, North Carolina, Jacob Bass and wife Ann (spelling varied) Bass were selling land.<sup>3</sup> This deed was witnessed and proven in March 1761 by Abraham Bass - a brother of Jacob Bass, Sr., last of Franklin County, North Carolina.

Hence, Jacob Bass, Sr. as of 1761 had a wife named Ann and also as late as 1775 he had a wife named Ann. This period of 1760-1770-1775 is the time the son named Jordan Bass was born to Jacob Bass, Sr., whose wife was Ann.

Jordan Bass, a son of Jacob Bass, Sr., was born in the late 1760's or early 1770's.<sup>4</sup> Jordan Bass and Bethena Gay were married in May 1790 in Franklin County, North Carolina. The marriage bond is dated May 11, 1790, and is now in the files in the State Department of Archives and History in Raleigh, North Carolina. The marriage bond of Jordan Bass and Bethena Gay recited in part that:<sup>5</sup>

"We, Jordan Bass & William Wheelless are held and firmly bound unto Alex. Martin esq. \* \* \* in the sum of Five Hundred Pounds which payment will and truly to be made, we bind firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals and dated this 11th day of May, 1790, to be void on condition that there do not appear any lawfull impediments why sd. Jordan Bass and Pathene Gay should not be joined together in Holy Matrimony for which he hath the day of these presents obtained a license."

William Wheelless' name is found on various and sundry records with the Bass family in both Franklin and Nash counties, North Carolina and over a period of years.

1. Deed Book 3, pg. 6, Bute County, N.C. Also Deed Book 5, pg. 83, Bute County, N.C.
2. Deed Book 5, pg. 246, Bute County, N.C.
3. Deed Book 00 pg. 212, Edgecomb County, N.C. (Jan. 19, 1761)
4. Federal Census Record Jefferson County, Alabama, 1830. The specific relevance of this census record will be explained in later paragraphs.
5. Franklin County Marriage Bonds, Raleigh, N.C.



Bethena Gay was a daughter of John Gay also of Franklin County.<sup>6</sup> The name Bethena does not have a uniform spelling in the old records, and in some instances the "n" appears to be an "m", and in the marriage bond the letter "B" is not entirely distinct and is now more discernible as a "P". In the will of John Gay, her name is spelled as Bethany. The variations in spelling are within the rule of idem sonans. But for uniformity and because the spelling is most generally Bethena that is the spelling used herein.

Jordan Bass and wife Bethena established their home for a time in Franklin County after their marriage in May 1790. In December 1794 Jacob Bass, Jr., a brother of Jordan Bass, was appointed as the overseer of the road from Thomas Lanier's to John Hoops and he was directed to "keep the same in repair with the hands of Sylvanus Pumphrey, Warren Bass, Sam'l Dukes, Richard Hill, Frederick Davis, John Wills, Jacob Bass, Gilliam Watkins, Micajah Wills, Francis Wills, Jordan Bass and Orren Bass."<sup>7</sup> That Court entry in 1794 proves that Jordan Bass and some of the other sons and sons-in-law and neighbors of Jacob Bass, Sr., then deceased, were still living in the same community, in the County of Franklin, North Carolina, in the year 1794. A rural road required attention of course by those who lived in the area through which the road was located, and the ones appointed to keep the road in repair lived along the road. The court record of 1794 and the association of other members of the family of Jacob Bass, Sr. show that Jordan Bass, who married Bethena Gay, was still living in the county in December 1794.

On January 3, 1794, the slaves of Jacob Bass, Sr., were sold and his sons or sons-in-law bought all but one. Jordan Bass was at the sale and purchased a Negro man named Adam.<sup>8</sup> Also on January 20, 1795, Jordan Bass signed as a witness on the receipt of his brother's share of their father's estate, when his brothers Alexander, Jacob (Jr.), and Theophilus Bass were present.<sup>9</sup> Again on March 21, 1795, Jordan Bass signed for his share of his father's estate when his brothers Warren and Theophilus Bass were present.<sup>10</sup> Thus, these records show Jordan Bass, the son of Jacob Bass, Sr. of Franklin County, North Carolina, was living in Franklin County as late as 1795.

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6. Will Book I, pg. 196, Nov. 1808, Nash County, N. C., and subsequent explanation herein as to a deed by Jordan Bass and wife Bethena whereby her share of land, in the John Gay estate, was conveyed to a purchaser.
  7. County Court Minutes 1794-1800, Franklin County, N. C. on file in the North Carolina Department of Archives and History in Raleigh, N. C. The pages are not numbered in this book of the County Court Minutes, but this order is on page 37, by count, and at the top of the page in bold handwriting is the following: "Minutes of December Court 1794."
  8. Franklin County Estates, Bar-Bas, North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, N. C. Also, see, Will Book A, pg. 117 (Jan. 3, 1794).
  9. See, footnote 8, supra.
  10. See, footnote 8, supra.





Jordan Bass and wife Bethena had at least two sons - who lived to maturity - that were born in Franklin County, North Carolina. The older was named Elijah Bass, and the second child was named John Bass, and the widow of this John Bass in 1855 signed an affidavit in Cherokee County, Texas, that she and John Bass were married on January 14, 1817 in Lincoln County (Fayetteville), Tennessee and that John Bass was born in 1796 in North Carolina, and was a veteran of the war of 1812 having served while living in Tennessee, and that he died on August 11, 1852 in Cherokee County, Texas. That affidavit by Mary (Polly) Bass, widow of John Bass, is on file in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.<sup>11</sup> ✓

Jordan Bass, his wife Bethena, and at least two children, Elijah and John, lived in Franklin County until about 1800, when they moved first to Wilson County in Middle Tennessee.

Soon after 1800 Jordan Bass and family were in Wilson County, Tennessee, along with some of his brothers, brothers-in-law, and other neighboring families from Franklin County, North Carolina. His brothers Theophilus Bass and Solomon Bass were in Wilson County.

The State of Tennessee was admitted to the Union on June 1, 1796, although the area was beginning to be settled as early as 1767 and by 1769 a wagon road existed between Knoxville and Nashville.

Wilson County, Tennessee, where the above brothers settled, was established in 1799 from the large county of Sumner. Sumner County had been formed from Davidson County in 1783 and Davidson County had once been a part of North Carolina.

One of the first records in date regarding a member of the Bass family was of Job Bass who was there in 1797 in Sumner County, and also he was a resident of Smith County, which adjoins the County of Wilson. In 1805 Job Bass sold the land which he had purchased in 1797 "on Round Lick Creek a branch of Cumberland River".<sup>12</sup> ✓

Another early record was that of August 4, 1801 when Theophilus Bass was in Sumner County and purchased acreage on Cedar Lick Creek (off the old Buffalo Road), which is in Wilson County.<sup>13</sup>

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11. War of 1812 Records and Grants of Land in the National Archives, Washington, D.C. (Land Record 21624)

12. Deed Book B, pg. 325, Smith County, Tennessee. Court Minutes Vol. III pg. 177, Sumner County, T

13. Deed Book A, pg. 324, Wilson County, Tennessee.



A recorded deed in Franklin County, North Carolina in 1796<sup>14</sup> indicates that Theophilus Bass was still there, and again in the next year's tax listing he was included. However, it may be reasonably assumed that it was between 1796 and 1800 that the several members of the Bass family left Franklin County, North Carolina, the home of their father Jacob Bass, Sr., and moved into the almost virgin territory of Tennessee.

There is a deed on file in Franklin County, dated February 6, 1801, which states that Theophilus Bass and wife Rachel "of Sumner County, Tennessee" were selling land in Franklin County, North Carolina, which land was bounded by Hardy Hunt and Thomas Jones' lands.<sup>15</sup> The witnesses were Wm. Andrews and Willie Jones. Theophilus Bass understood the value of "written" records, and so made many during his early Tennessee days. For example, he had recorded his "ear mark" - for his pigs - in Sumner County and he sold a negro woman named Fanny,<sup>16</sup> and served as juror while in Sumner County.<sup>17</sup> In Sumner County there is a marriage listing of a Hasty Bass to a Moses Adams on July 23, 1800 and James Vinson was the Bondsman.<sup>18</sup> Theophilus Bass had married into the Vinson family of Franklin County, North Carolina, see for example, an indenture dated August 10, 1814, between John Bass attorney in fact for Theophilus and Rachel Bass of Wilson County, State of Tennessee and James Collins of Franklin County, North Carolina, regarding the dower of land allotted to Hannah Vincent, widow of David Vincent, which was witnessed by Jordan Hill and Thomas Lanier.<sup>19</sup>

Theophilus Bass died in Wilson County, Tennessee about 1826.<sup>20</sup> Some of his heirs were Ezekiel, John, and Etheldread Bass. The inventory of his property was dated June 23, 1826.<sup>21</sup> It is the son Ezekiel Bass who lived close to his Uncle Jordan Bass and who is closely associated with him during the years of 1800-1810. The descendants of Ezekiel Bass are still living in the County of Wilson, and there is still the name of Jordan carried within the present generation.

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14. Deed Book 8, pg. 161; Deed Book 10, pg. 289, 297, Franklin County, N. C.
  15. Deed Book 3, pg. 99, Franklin County, N. C.
  16. County Court Minutes Vol. IV, pg. 367 (1802) Sumner County, Tenn.
  17. County Court Minutes Vol. IV, pg. 392 (1802) Sumner County, Tenn.
  18. Marriage Records, Sumner County, Tenn.
  19. Deed Book 1, pg. 254, Franklin County, N. C.
  20. Will Book 1824-1827, pg. 330, Wilson County, Tenn.
  21. Will Book 1824-1827, pg. 526, Wilson County, Tenn.





Solomon Bass, son of Jacob Bass, Sr. of Franklin County, North Carolina, died in Wilson County, and his son Sion Bass, as administrator,<sup>22</sup> made an inventory of the goods and chattels on March 23, 1807.<sup>23</sup> Included in the inventory of the estate of Solomon Bass were notes due in North Carolina and there was a negro man named "Sinaker" and one negro girl named "Lucy". The name of the negro boy Solomon Bass had purchased from his father's estate in Franklin County, North Carolina, was "Synaker" and of course he had become a man in the intervening years.<sup>24</sup> Also Jacob Bass, Sr. of Franklin County had owned a negro girl named "Lucy".<sup>25</sup> According to the estate records in Wilson County, Tennessee, the children and direct heirs of Solomon Bass were Hearty Searcy, Sion (Zion) Bass, James Bass, Cader Bass, Aren Bass and Nancy Bass.<sup>26</sup>

On file in the Archives at Nashville, Tennessee, is a listing of the taxable property<sup>27</sup> in Capt. Ezekiel Bass' district in Wilson County, Tennessee, for the year 1803, and the list includes the following persons: John Anderson; Francis Adams; John Baker; Alexander Beard; Jordan Bass with 150 acres on Round Lick Creek; Ezekiel Bass also with acreage on Round Lick Creek; (S)Lemuel Barton; John Q. Blount, Edward Harris; John Lawrence; Wm. Shanks and Thomas Stokes. Several of these families had intermarried into the Bass family of Franklin County.

The settlement where Jordan Bass acquired land on "Round Lick Creek" had its beginning about the year 1800, or shortly after Tennessee became a State, and among the early settlers in this portion of the County of Wilson were Jordan Bass and Solomon Bass, and their brother Theophilus Bass and his family who settled near by on Cedar Lick Creek.

Mr. Worth S. Ray in his book entitled "Tennessee Cousins"<sup>28</sup> states that the Cedar Lick Creek and Smith Ford areas were settled by Theophilus Bass, among others, who was "perhaps" a brother of Solomon and Jordan Bass who settled on Round Lick Creek. In the same book, Mr. Ray stated

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22. County Court Minutes, Vol. I, pg. 300 (1803-07), Wilson County, Tenn.

23. Wills & Inventories, 1803-1814, pg. 131, Wilson County, Tenn.

24. County Court Minutes 1794, pg. 391, Franklin County, N. C.; and Will Book A, pg. 117, Franklin County, N. C.

25. See, footnote 24, supra.

26. Grant Book C, pg. 18, (1807-09) Wilson County, Tenn.

27. County Court Minutes, Vol. I, pg. 16, (1803-07), Wilson County, Tenn.

28. "Tennessee Cousins", pg. 626, 7, by Worth S. Ray.



that Solomon, Jordan and Theophilus Bass settled in the Round Lick Community about 1800. Mr. Ray used the word "perhaps" when identifying these men as brothers. His book covers a vast number of family lines and he is to be complimented on the excellent and proper grouping of the Bass families. Extensive research has shown Jordan, Solomon, and Theophilus were brothers, and that they came to Tennessee from Franklin County, North Carolina.

In the Militia District #3 Capt. Geo. Clark reported the following persons for the year 1804:<sup>29</sup>

Ezekiel Bass, Round Lick Creek, White Pole 1; Black Pole 1;  
245 acres

John Bass, Round Lick Creek, White Pole 1; Black Pole 1;  
no acres

Jordan Bass, Round Lick Creek, White Pole 1; Black Pole 1;  
150 acres.

The above named Ezekiel Bass and John Bass were sons of Theophilus Bass, as witnessed by the estate papers of Theophilus Bass in Wilson County.<sup>30</sup> The name "Ezekiel" came from the family of Rachel Bass, wife of Theophilus Bass, as evidenced by records in Franklin County, North Carolina, which indicated that there was an Ezekiel Vinson in Franklin County and Rachel Bass was a member of the Vinson family.<sup>31</sup>

During the March term of Court of 1807 in Wilson County, Tennessee, Jeremiah Brown was appointed surveyor of the road "beginning at Samuel Barton's Junc. thence passing Jordan Bass, to county line of Smith County, along county line to Jennings Fork."<sup>32</sup> That description places the location of the Jordan Bass home along the Round Lick Creek in the southeastern portion of Wilson County, near the Smith County line. That area of the country is rich in beauty, with gentle rolling hills and sparkling branches.

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29. County Court Minutes Vol. 1, pg. 63, Wilson County, Tenn.

30. See, footnotes 20 and 21, supra.

31. See, footnote 15, supra.

32. County Court Minutes March Term 1807, pg. 51, Wilson County, Tenn.





Beginning the specific history of Jordan Bass, we find that on Tuesday, June 26, 1804, Jordan Bass and Ezekiel Bass were serving as jurors in Wilson County, as shown by records now in the State Archives in Nashville, Tennessee.<sup>33</sup> The next day, June 27, 1804, Ezekiel Bass and Jordan Bass and other jurors sat on the jury regarding a case between Elijah Hendricks and Obediah Hendricks wherein the judgment by the court was the same and the attachment was dismissed.<sup>34</sup>

Although Jordan Bass apparently lived on his land for some time, the purchase of his Round Lick Creek property is not listed until March 1, 1806,<sup>35</sup> and the deed is recorded in Wilson County. Jordan Bass bought the land from Sampson Williams of Wilson County, Tennessee, for the price of \$1,000, and the witnesses to this deed were Ezekiel Bass and John Lawrence and the deed was proven by Ezekiel Bass on March 2, 1807, after having been registered in December 1806.<sup>36</sup> The Lawrence family was from the same area in North Carolina as the Bass family, had been neighbors and had married into the family and much later there were members of a Lawrence family with Jordan Bass in Alabama<sup>37</sup> and with the descendants of Jordan Bass in Arkansas after 1860.

Also Mills (Miles) Gay lived on Round Lick Creek, as did Jordan Bass with 250 acres, Ezekiel Bass and John Bass, all having been listed in the 1807 tax rolls.<sup>38</sup> Mills Gay was a brother of Bethena Gay Bass, the wife of Jordan Bass.<sup>39</sup> He too moved from Franklin County, North Carolina to Wilson County, Tennessee. In fact, Mills Gay witnessed deeds involving various families from the neighborhood of the County of Franklin, North Carolina, including those for John Bass, son of Theophilus Bass; and John Bass, son of Jordan Bass; John Lawrence<sup>40</sup>; Dread Bass<sup>41</sup>; Ezekiel Bass<sup>42</sup>; and others.

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33. County Court Minutes Vol. I, pg. 46 (1803-1807), Wilson County, Tenn.

34. County Court Minutes Vol. I, pg. 49 (1803-1807), Wilson County, Tenn.

35. County Court Minutes, Vol. I, pg. 275; also Deed Book B, pg. 262, Wilson County, Tenn.

36. County Court Minutes (1806) pg. 27, Wilson County, Tenn.

37. Federal Census 1840 Talladega County, pp. 263-270, Ala.

38. County Court Minutes (1807), pg. 63, Wilson County, Tenn.

39. Deed Book 5, pg. 320, Nash County, N.C. (Aug. 13, 1810)

40. Deed Book B, pg. 105, Wilson County, Tenn. (April 24, 1806)

41. Deed Book D, pg. 286, Wilson County, Tenn. (July 20, 1810)

42. Deed Book B, pg. 123, Wilson County, Tenn. (March 25, 1806; recorded May 17, 1806).





The following document is interesting to the descendants of Jordan Bass because of the direct personal interest, and it is interesting also as a historical document because of the participation of General Andrew Jackson. This document was recorded without punctuation and the inconsistent spelling throughout the judgment is as the original.<sup>43</sup>

"Jordan Bass VS Andrew Jackson; administrator of all & singular the goods & chattels rights and credits of Samuel Donelson, deceased. -- Covenant C. Cooper, S. Barton J Cannon Justices. This day came the parties by their attorneys also a jury to wit: Robert Doak Aaron Lambert Levi Rogers James Elliott Lea Tucker Francis Anderson Joseph Weir George Rogers Samuel Payer Patrick Youree Thomas Harrington and James Edwards who being elected tried and sworn the truth to say upon the issue joined upon their oaths do say the Defendant did assume upon himself in manner and form as the plaintiff hath alledged and hath not kept his said covenant but hath broken the same, therefore, we find for the plaintiff & assess his damages Seven hundred and seventeen dollars and twenty five cents & the debt. be assessed. Supa to issue VS the heirs of Samuel Donelson to wit: John Donnelson Andrew Jackson Donnelson and Daniel Donnelson heirs of the said Samuel Donnelson of Davidson County. "

If any record existed further describing the law suit between Andrew Jackson and Jordan Bass, it is no longer in existence as I have personally searched the court records and also employed a local attorney to search the records again. The only document is the one quoted above from the certified copy supplied by the attorney.

Another reference to Jordan Bass in Wilson County is in the marriage records at Lebanon, the County Seat of Wilson County, Tennessee, where on April 19, 1810 "Jorday" Bass was surety on the marriage bond of Mills Gay to Rhody Harkins. This indicates that Jordan Bass was surety for his wife's brother, Mills Gay.

It was not long after April of 1810 that Jordan Bass and family moved to Lincoln County, Tennessee. On November 1, 1810,<sup>44</sup> Jordan

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43. County Court Minutes 1803-1807, pg. 282, Wilson County, Tenn.

44. Deed Book E, pg. 171, Wilson County, Tennessee.



Bass of Wilson County sold to Hezekiah Cartwright for \$1000 a tract "on both sides of Round Lick Creek, including the place where the said Bass now lives, Beginning at a Beech and dogwood John Lawrence corner, running thence north with Taylor's line 143 poles crossing said creek to a Hackberry Ash and cedar the old corner, thence west 284 poles to a cedar, then South 143 poles to said Lawrence north west corner, then East with his line to the Beginning", containing 253 acres. The land had been conveyed by John Howel to Sampson Williams to Jordan Bass, and the witnesses were Samuel Barton, Aaron Lambert and John Cartwright. That deed by Jordan Bass was recorded on July 17, 1813 and was the same description as the land Jordan Bass bought in 1806.<sup>45</sup> It is interesting to note that two of the witnesses to the above deed, Samuel Barton and Aaron Lambert, had served as Judge and Jury in the law suit between Andrew Jackson and Jordan Bass.

It is known, both from records and from family legend, that members of the family of Jordan Bass returned to Wilson County on visits, and some members or descendants of this family returned to visit even as late as the 1850's. This is understandable, as they had both Bass relatives and Gay relatives to visit.

In order to identify further Jordan Bass of Wilson County, Tennessee, it is necessary to refer to a deed dated July 23, 1810, by Jordan Bass and wife Bethena whereby they conveyed a certain tract of land in Nash County, North Carolina. That deed is recorded in Deed Book 5, page 200, in Nash County, North Carolina, and it recites, inter alia, that Jordan Bass and wife were then residents of Wilson County, Tennessee, and joining with them in the deed were Hardy Hunt and wife Nancy of Lincoln County, Tennessee. The grantee was William Robbins of Nash County, North Carolina. This Bass-Hunt deed conveyed a part of the estate of John Gay, the father of Bethena Gay Bass (wife of Jordan Bass). The will of John Gay is recorded in Will Book I, page 196, Nash County, North Carolina, but the will recites that "I, John Gay of Franklin County, State of North Carolina" is the testator, and his daughter Bethena is identified in the will. The will was probated in 1808, after the death of John Gay. The

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45. Deed Book B, pg. 262, Wilson County, Tenn. and footnote 35 supra.





witnesses to his will were Ephriam Gilliam, William Stewart and David Vinson - all men of Franklin County. (See first sentence of paragraph below where the same surnames are among the Wilson-Lincoln Counties group in Tennessee). The will is dated June 8, 1780, and that of course was prior to the marriage of Bethena Gay and Jordan Bass in Franklin County, where John Gay lived (according to the recital in his will). The will mentions some land owned by John Gay in Nash County, North Carolina. The commissioners appointed by the probate court "allotted to Bethena Bass" a tract of land (Deed Book 14, page 274, Nash County, North Carolina) and therefore the Bethena Gay in the Will of John Gay is recognized by the court commissioners, for his estate, as Bethena Bass. The deed by Jordan Bass and wife Bethena of Wilson County, Tennessee, in 1810, conveys the same tract of land (according to the detailed description) as was allotted to Bethena Bass, by the court commissioners, as a daughter of John Gay "of Franklin County, North Carolina". The deed was also from Hardy Hunt and wife Nancy, another daughter of John Gay. The Hunts lived in Lincoln County, Tennessee, at the time of the recital of the deed, and Jordan Bass and Bethena lived in Wilson County, Tennessee, according to the recitals in the deed. See, Deed Book 5, page 200, and Deed Book 5, page 319, in Nash County, North Carolina.

Jordan Bass and wife Bethena moved from Wilson County to Lincoln County, Tennessee and then to Alabama, but while in Lincoln County Tennessee, the Minute Docket of the County Court for the year 1811 (page 137) stated that "Isaac Gatlin, Miles Gay, Jourdan Bass \* \* \* Ezekiel Gilliam, Abner Vinson, L.B. Vinson, and Hardy Hunt to be hands" to assist Philip Phagan on the road work. Jordan Bass' sons, Elijah and John Bass, were in the army in the War of 1812. See, War of 1812 Records, National Archives, Washington, D. C. They enlisted in the army while their parents lived in WilsonCounty - Lincoln County, Tennessee.

Mention has been made that Jordan Bass and wife Bethena Gay Bass were the parents of Elijah and John Bass. There were other children, and the Talladega County, Alabama, estate records of Jordan Bass<sup>46</sup> clearly show the following as the sons and daughters of Jordan Bass:

1. Elijah Bass, born in North Carolina in about 1792. His wife's given name was Susannah (Susan), and she was born in about 1795 in South Carolina.
2. John Bass, was born in North Carolina in 1796, and married Mary Click (?) on January 14, 1817 in Fayetteville, Lincoln County, Tennessee. (no children)
3. Willis Bass, born in Lincoln County, Tennessee in 1811 and was married twice - first wife was Elizabeth Miles. He died in Jacksonville, Texas, where some of his descendants still live.



4. Sally Bass, who married James Gatlin.
5. Nancy Bass, who married Riley Pierce on July 25, 1821 in Jefferson County, Alabama.
6. Cynthia Bass, who married Henry Little on July 6, 1822 in Jefferson County, Alabama.
7. Rebecca Bass, who married William Riley on January 9, 1824 in Jefferson County, Alabama.
8. Anna(h) Bass, who married Robert Northcutt of Talladega County, Alabama.

Jordan and Bethena Bass and their eight children moved in about 1815 into Jones Valley, Alabama. According to history, this Valley was mostly settled by white men who composed Coffee's brigade, which had been detached from General Andrew Jackson's army consisting of men from Tennessee, who were noted for skill and daring, and their service entitled them to land warrants.

Elijah and John Bass were volunteers during the War of 1812.<sup>47</sup> Jordan, Elijah and John Bass settled in what is now Jefferson County, Alabama. Jefferson County was created on December 13, 1819, from Blount County. After living in Jefferson County for about 20 years, they moved to Talladega County, which had been established on December 18, 1832, from the Creek Session.<sup>48</sup>

From the records of land warrants of Alabama, now on file in Washington, D. C. in the National Archives, are grants to Elijah and John Bass in the south central part of Jefferson County between Bessemer and the Cahaba River. The 1820 Federal census for this portion of Alabama is no longer in existence, but the 1830 census for Jefferson County, Alabama, reflects the following Bass families:

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47. War of 1812 records, National Archives, Washington, D. C.  
48. Index of Counties in National Archives, Washington, D. C.





- pg. 182 - Jordan Bass is shown as having in his house 1 male 60-70; 1 female 5-10 and one female 60-70 - 5 slaves
- pg. 182 - Willis Bass is shown as having in his house 1 male 15-20; 1 female 15-20 and 1 male under 5 years of age.
- pg. 202 - reflects 3 other Bass families, namely, Burwell Bass, Andrew Bass and Burwell Bass, Sr.<sup>49</sup>

Although the Federal census records for 1830 in Jefferson County, Alabama, do not reflect the names of Elijah and John Bass, sons of Jordan Bass, the other records in the county show that Elijah Bass made his home there during the 1830's. John Bass and Elijah Bass were in the census for the Mississippi Territory in 1819, and it is possible they were out "scouting" at the time the census taker came to Jefferson County in 1830. Also, it is known that the family of Elijah Bass had moved to Northern Mississippi prior to the formation of the County of Tippah in 1836<sup>50</sup> where they made their home, and it is possible Elijah and John Bass were then in what is now Tippah County in 1830 where no Federal census was made by counties, as it was still territory.

The Jordan Bass family remained more or less together until about 1830 when the family of Elijah Bass moved to what is now Tippah County, Mississippi. The others in the family remained near their father, Jordan Bass, until his death in 1841.

In 1819 when Jefferson County was formed, a log court house was built at Carrollsville. The county seat remained there a few months and then was moved to Elyton, where it remained until the 1870's. It was at

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49. Perhaps it should be mentioned that the families of Burwell and Andrew Bass as mentioned in the 1830 census for Jefferson County, Alabama, carried similar names as the family of Jordan Bass. Burwell Bass, Sr. and Jordan Bass were approximately the same age, but no effort has been made to decide what their relationship to each other may have been. Mr. Jefferson Davis Bass, who was 90 years of age in 1951 and who then lived at Moulton, Alabama, wrote that "my grandfather was Burwell Bass, Sr. born about 1780 and he had two brothers, Willis and Jonathan." He further wrote that some of his grandfather's people stopped in Talladega County, Alabama, this being the County that Jordan Bass and his family also moved to in about 1836 and where Jordan Bass died in 1841.

50. Tract Book, Abstract of Lands, 1836, pg. 5, National Archives, Washington, D.C.



the log cabin court in Carrollsville, near Elyton, now a part of Birmingham, that Jordan Bass had a suit against James Click in March 1819,<sup>51</sup> which is one of the first cases of record in the log cabin courthouse at Carrollsville, Alabama.

Other records in existence in Jefferson County, Alabama, show that on March 24, 1827<sup>52</sup> when Jordan Bass bought from Jane Hunt ten acres in the southwest corner of the northeast quarter of Section three, township 20, range 4; and again on May 14, 1832 Jordan Bass and wife Bethena Bass sold an adjacent tract of 80 acres to Jesse Williams.<sup>53</sup> Apparently this was part of the acreage that Elijah Bass had sold his father Jordan Bass on July 3, 1826,<sup>54</sup> as the land is described as the same that Elijah Bass bought in 1819.<sup>55</sup> Also in Deed Book 4 at page 71, on April 24, 1831, Jordan Bass gave his granddaughter, Eliza Riley, a negro boy named Alexander, for her use after his death.

Bethena Bass, the mother of Elijah Bass and wife of Jordan Bass, certified the land transaction of July 3, 1829 on January 28, 1832, before James W. Wood, who was then Justice of the Peace at Jonesborough in Jefferson County, Alabama.

Shortly after the sale of land by Jordan Bass, he and his sons John Bass and Willis Bass and families moved to Talladega County, Alabama.

It is evident that Jordan and Bethena Bass and several of their children and their families were in Talladega County, Alabama in 1838. The 1840 census for Talladega shows Jordan Bass<sup>56</sup> as being in a household of 1 male between 20-30 years of age and one male who was 70 to 80 years of age with 2 females under 5 years; one female who was between 15 and 20 years of age and one female who was between seventy and eighty years of age and they had nine slaves. Their son John Bass as head of a house had two men between the ages of 20 and 30 and one man who was between 40 and 50 and one female between 10 and 15 years of age and one between 40 and 50 years of age. They too had 9 slaves. The younger son, Willis Bass, had one male under 5 years of

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51. Circuit Court Minutes 1819, pg. 51, Jefferson County, Ala.

52. Deed Book 3, pg. 41; Deed Book 4, pg. 166, Jefferson County, Ala.

53. Deed Book 4, pg. 104, Jefferson County, Ala.

54. Deed Book 3, pgs. 31-33, Jefferson County, Ala.

55. Land Warrent Records of Alabama, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

56. Federal Census 1840, pgs. 263-270, Talladega County, Alabama.





age; one who was 5 to 10, one who was 10 to 15 and 2 who were 20 to 30 years of age and they had 5 slaves. A few residences away lived Laurence Bass and his family. This Laurence Bass was no doubt related both by the Laurence family of Franklin and Northampton counties, North Carolina, but also by his Bass lineage.

Willis and John Bass, brothers of Elijah Bass and sons of Jordan Bass, received land grants in Mardis, Alabama in 1835, which land was in Talladega County. Records there, for example, show that on December 13, 1834 both John Bass and wife Mary Bass and Willis Bass and wife Elizabeth Bass sold to Robert Jemison some of their land in the Coosa Land District.

When Willis and John Bass, after the death of their father, left Talladega County, Alabama, for Texas, they again sold land on March 9, 1846 in Talladega County to Mr. Robert Jemison. A descendant of Mr. Robert Jemison, Miss E. Grace Jemison of 710 North Street, East Talladega, on January 1, 1951 wrote, "I have in my possession Indian Land Grants to both Willis and John Bass for land sold to my great grandfather Robert Jemison. One grant was purchased in 1834 and another in 1837. The Creek Treaty was signed in March 1832 and Talladega was established December 18, 1832. Most settlers came the early part of 1833. William L. Lewis, who was tutor to the Jemison children in 1834, wrote in the year 1884 a series of articles for the local paper and they have copies in the Reference Library... in one of these articles is the following paragraph: 'Willis Bass, a good man and clever neighbor settled the place where Wm. Curry now lives in 1832.'" (The land later was called Willow Glen). John Bass lived on the south of the McIntosh Trace which, of course, can't now be explained as the road has been so changed and is now called the Anniston-Talladega Highway, and as to where the Bass people are buried - they might be buried outside our walled-in cemetery."

This letter, or portion of it, was written to John L. Bass in reply to his inquiry about Jordan, Willis and John Bass. The reference from the article written by Mr. Lewis was of interest as the grandson of Willis Bass, Mr. Joseph Calloway Bass of Jacksonville, Texas, stated in 1953 that Willis Bass was financially well to do and well liked.

Jordan Bass died in Talladega County, Alabama, possibly on November 12, 1841, as the sellers of "silk gloves", cloth, etc., dated their charges as of November 13, 1841.





During the Special Term of Orphans Court for Talladega County, Alabama, on December 4, 1841, the petition of John and Willis Bass to serve as administrators of their father's estate was submitted.<sup>57</sup> On the margin of this paper in the Orphans Minute Book is the notation: "Direct to A. J. Hood, Rusk, Cherokee County, Texas." John and Willis Bass had moved to Cherokee County, Texas, prior to the conclusion of the settlement of the estate of Jordan Bass.

On Tuesday, December 21, 1841,<sup>58</sup> is the following entry:

"Be it remembered that this day John Bass and Willis Bass as the Administrators of the Estate of Jordan Bass deceased made out and reported the estate of said Jordan Bass as Solvent... that there are no demands against the estate of their Intestate that he died leaving a widow Bethena Bass and four children to wit: John Bass and Willis Bass, Sally Gatlin and her husband James Gatlin, late Sally Bass and Rebecca Riley, late Rebecca Bass and William Riley her husband; four other children who are dead leaving heirs; Viz: Elijah Bass whose heirs will take his share of his fathers estate. Nancy Pierce, late Nancy Bass deceased leaving heirs; Cintha (Bass) Little deceased leaving heirs and Annah (Bass) Northcut deceased leaving heirs. \* \* \*"

The papers regarding the sale of the personalty and chattels of the estate of Jordan Bass are dated February 6, 1844.<sup>59</sup>

On June 5, 1842 neighbors James Gooding, Joseph Coker, Alex. C. English, Lewis Rogers and Thomas Best signed a record regarding the personal estate given to the widow in which they gave her one-fifth of the estate including a negro named Jude.<sup>60</sup>

The petition for the final settlement of the estate of Jordan Bass was made on March 18, 1844, at a Special Term of the Orphans Court in Talladega County, Alabama:<sup>61</sup>

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57. Minutes of Orphans County Court, Vol. B-1, pg. 272, Talladega County, Ala.

58. Minutes of Orphans Court, Vol. B-1, pg. 302, Talladega County, Ala.

59. Register of Wills Book B-1, pgs. 386-387, Talladega County, Ala.

60. Register of Wills Book B-1, pgs. 346, Talladega County, Ala.

61. Probate Minute Book C-1, pgs. 114-117, Talladega County, Ala.



"This day being set apart for the final settlement of the estate of Jordan Bass, deceased, by a previous order of this Court (this book page 84) on the sixth day of February last at which time I, Hezekiah W. W. Rice, Judge of said Court examined, stated and reported the amount current of John Bass and Willis Bass Administrators of said deceased estate for allowances to them on this day and it appearing to the satisfaction of this court that advertisements for the final settlement of said intestates has been made according to the intent that all persons interested therein might this day appear and have done what of right and according to the laws of said State ought to be done: \* \* \*

"The following named persons and the adult kins of said Jordan Bass, deceased, yet living to wit: John Bass, James Gatlin in right of his wife Sally (formerly Sally Bass), William Riley in right of his wife Rebecca (formerly Rebecca Bass) and Willis Bass. The following named persons are the Grand-children of said Jordan Bass, to wit: Jordan, John, Bethena, Owena, Drucilla, Nancy and Richmond Children of Elijah Bass, deceased, who was the son of said Jordan Bass, deceased. Edmund, Eliza, Quilla and Riley children of Riley Pierce and Nancy his deceased wife (late Nancy Bass and a child of said Jordan Bass, deceased). Bethena, Permelia, Elizabeth, Robert, and Wilborn children of Henry Little and Cintha his deceased wife (late Cintha Bass a child of the said Jordan Bass, deceased). Dicy and Jordan, children of Robert Northcut and Anna his deceased wife (late Anna Bass a child of said Jordan Bass) all of whom are heirs of the estate of said Jordan Bass, deceased.

"It appears that said Jordan Bass deceased in his life time made the following advances of money and property to his children herein after named to wit:

To Elijah Bass, one horse worth \$50. Money advanced \$200	\$250.
To James Gatlin and his wife Sally Gatlin one horse	60.
To Riley Pierce and his wife Nancy Pierce one horse	60
To Robert Northcut and his wife Annah Northcut one horse	25.
To Willis Bass one horse	40.
To Henry Little and his wife Cintha Little 1 negro girl	200.
Making all the sums advanced . . . . .	<hr/> \$635.





"The above property being thrown into the Hotch Pot on the day of final settlement and being added to the amount of assets in the Administrators hands makes the sum of Thirty one hundred and twenty eight dollars and thirty four cents. \$3128.34 which sum being divided between the heirs of said Jordan Bass, Eight in number make to each Heir or their representatives the sum of \$391.04 deducting from the several shares of each heir the respective amounts of property in value to them advanced as above stated.

"Ordered by the Court that Jordan, John, Bethena, Owena, Drucilla, Nancy and Richmond Bass, children of Elijah Bass, deceased and heirs of the estate of Jordan Bass deceased Receive of John and Willis Bass as the Administrators of the estate of said Jordan Bass the sum of one hundred and forty one  $4/100$  dollars after deducting the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars as an advance made by said Jordan Bass to said Elijah Bass as aforesaid found to be due them by this court on this day and that execution be stayed until further ordered by this court.

"Ordered that James Gatlin in the right of his wife Sally Gatlin formerly Sally Bass recover of John and Willis Bass as the Administrators of the estate of Jordan Bass, deceased the sum of Three hundred and thirty one  $4/100$  dollars it being the sum due after deducting the sum of sixty dollars as an advance made to said Gatlin and his wife by said Jordan Bass in his life time of his estate for which an execution may issue.

"Ordered by the Court that the children of Riley Pierce in the right of his deceased wife Nancy Pierce (formerly Nancy Bass) to wit Edmund, Eliza, (A)Quilla and Riley Pierce who are heirs of the estate of Jordan Bass deceased Receive of John and Willis Bass as the Administrators of the said Jordan Bass, deceased the sum of Three Hundred and thirty one  $4/100$  dollars it being the sum found due to them by this court as their distributive share of said deceased estate after deducting the sum of Sixty dollars as an advance to said Riley Pierce and Nancy his wife by the said Jordan Bass of his estate in his life time and that execution to be stayed until further ordered by this court. \* (\* Marginal Note: \$174.65. This decess is settled in full. Refer to files of the estate).

"Ordered by the Court that Dicy and Jordan Northcut children of Robert Northcut and Annah his deceased wife (formerly Annah Bass) recover of John and Willis Bass the Administrators of the estate of



Jordan Bass deceased the sum of Three hundred and sixty six  $\frac{4}{100}$  dollars the sum found to be due them by this court as their distributive share of said Jordan Bass estate of this day after deducting the sum of twenty-five dollars as an advance made to said Robert and Annah his wife by the said Jordan Bass of his estate in his life time and that execution be stayed thereon until a Guardian be appointed for said Dicy and Jordan children as aforesaid. (Marginal note: May 6th, 1844).

"Ordered by the Court that Willis Bass retain in his hands the sum of Three hundred and fifty one  $\frac{4}{100}$  dollars the amount found to be due him as the distributive share of said Jordan Bass estate after deducting the sum of forty dollars as an advance made to him by said Jordan Bass of his estate in his life time.

"Ordered that the children of Henry Little and Cintha his deceased wife formerly Cintha Bass, to wit: Bethena, Permelia, Elizabeth, Robert and Wilbourn Little and Heirs of the estate of Jordan Bass deceased recover of John and Willis Bass as Administrators of the estate of said Jordan Bass the sum of One hundred and ninety one  $\frac{4}{100}$  dollars the amount found to be due them as their distributive share of said Jordan Bass estate by this court on this day after deducting the sum of two hundred dollars as an advance made to the said Henry Little and Cinthia his wife by the said Jordan Bass of his estate in his life time and that execution be stayed thereon until further ordered by this court.

"Ordered that John Bass retain in his possession the sum of Three hundred and ninety one  $\frac{4}{100}$  dollars the sum found to be due him as one of the legatees of the estate of Jordan Bass deceased by this court this day as his distributive share.

"Ordered that William Riley in the right of his wife Rebecca Riley formerly Rebecca Bass recover of John and Willis Bass as the Administrators of the estate of Jordan Bass deceased the sum of Three hundred and ninty one  $\frac{4}{100}$  dollars the sum found to be due them as legatees of the estate of Jordan Bass, deceased by this court this day as their distributive share of said decedent's estate on final settlement thereto for which let Execution rest.

H. W. W. Rice, Judge."





Among the papers on file in Talladega County, Alabama regarding the settlement of the above estate are found the guardianship paper from Riley Pierce who was then in Kemper County, Mississippi, in which paper he states that on July 13, 1844 he was appointed by the Orphans Court of Kemper County guardian of his infant children Aquilla Pierce, Eliza Adeline Pierce and Riley J. Pierce. Apparently the fourth child, Edmund Pierce had reached his majority.

As is often the case in early wills or in new territory, some of the receipts of the heirs of Jordan Bass are not accounted for, however there are several still in existence and a power of attorney from Riley Pierce of Kemper County, Mississippi, dated April 14, 1845 in which he appointed William P. Chilton to collect the shares of his children "Aquilla Pierce and Riley Pierce". On August 29, 1845 William P. Chilton "received of John Bass one of the Administrators of the estate of Jordan Bass . . . one hundred and eighty four dollars and twenty seven cents in full of a decress and interest thereon to the 18th August. . . which said sum of money is in full for the distributive share of Aquilla Pierce and Riley J. Pierce. . ." Regarding the Pierce family, there is another paper on receipt on file which stated that "Edward" - should be Edmund - Pierce received his share on January 21, 1845. There is a receipt dated January 21, 1845 signed by Thomas S. Hodges which acknowledged receipt of one fourth part of the money due the heirs of Nancy Pierce, so it can be assumed that Eliza Pierce had married Thomas S. Hodges and he signed the receipt on her behalf.

Sally Bass Gatlin was alive at the time of her father's death but between 1841 and 1845 her husband James Gatlin died and no further mention is made of Sally. However, a receipt on file in Talladega County lists her children and it is quoted below: <sup>62</sup>

"Received of John Bass one of the Administrators of the Estate of Jordan Bass deceased \_\_\_\_\_ dollars in full of my distributive share of said Jordan Bass's estate that is coming to me by being one of the children of James Gatlin and Sally Gatlin who were son-in-law and Daughter of the said Jordan Bass deceased. Signed John Gatlin. !"

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62. File No. 6, Estate Papers, Talladega County, Alabama



This instrument was signed in May 1845 and attested by Henry Click, a relative of the wife of John Bass.

"I John Gatlin do certify that I as Attorney for Elizabeth Gatlin now Elizabeth Allen and Rebecca Gatlin now named Rebecca Allen and Partheny (Bethena) Gatlin have received their full part of the Estate of Jordan Bass deceased of John and Willis Bass administrators of the Estate.  
John Gatlin."

So, evidently both the mother Sally Bass Gatlin and the father James Gatlin were deceased before 1845.

The estate papers or receipts regarding the grandchildren, who were related to Jordan Bass through his deceased son Elijah Bass, are on file also in Talladega County. Several of the children of Elijah Bass, along with their mother Susannah Bass, were living in Tippah County, Mississippi, at the time of their grandfather Jordan Bass' death.

The following papers, as were the previous ones, are either certified copies or photostatic copies. John Bass, the son of Elijah Bass, deceased heir of Jordan Bass, was given a power of attorney to represent two of his sisters and apparently the other members of the family of Elijah Bass made other arrangements toward collecting their share. The power of attorney<sup>63</sup> and the receipt<sup>64</sup> signed by John Bass, of Tippah County, Mississippi, are quoted:

"The State of Mississippi, Tippah County. Know all men by these presents that we Giles Mathis and his wife Drucilla Mathis formerly Drucilla Bass, William-Brooks-and-Bethena Brooks-his-wife-formerly-Bethena-Bass (struck through), and Arrena (variation of spelling of Owena) Kesterson formerly Bass have constituted and appointed and by these presents do constitute and appoint John Bass our true and lawful agent and attorney in fact for as and in our names to receive from John Bass of Talledega County in the State of Alabama all such sum or sums of money as may be coming to us or either of us as the heirs of Jourdan Bass deceased and all such sum or sums as may be in

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63. Probate Office of Talladega County, Ala.

64. Estate Papers, File No. 6, Talladega County, Ala.





the hands of the said John Bass coming to us from any source whatever, and all further authorize and empower the said John Bass first named to receipt the said John Bass of Talladega County for any and all such sums of money as he may receive for us, and to do all things in the premises necessary for the recovery of said moneys and to execute all necessary \_\_\_\_\_tances for the same Hereby ratifying and Confirming all the acts and deeds of our said attorney in fact in the premises as fully and entirely as if we were presonally present and done the same ourselves. In Witness Whereof we hereunto set our hands and seals this 13th day of April 1846". Giles Mathis; Drucilla Mathis and Arrena Kesterson signed the above power of attorney and Justice of the Peace John C. Million witnessed their signatures.

"Received of John Bass one of the administrators of the estate of Jordan Bass late of Talladega County In my own right and as attorney in fact for Giles Mathis and Drucilla Mathis his wife and Arrena Kesterson (alias Arrena Tull) late Awena Bass children of Elijah Bass decd. who was a son of said Jordan Bass decd. the sums of one hundred and fourteen 94-1/2/100 Dollars being to each one the sum of Thirty Eight 31-1/2/100 Dollars in full of their distributive shares as heirs of said Jordan Bass's estate on final settlement and interest thereon to 18th April 1845. "

April 25th, 1846

John Bass

Test A. J. Cotton, Clerk County Court  
Talladega County, Alabama

John Bass as attorney in fact  
for Giles Mathis & wife Drucilla  
and Awena Kesterson (alias  
Awena Tull)

If the other children of Elijah Bass ever claimed their share of the estate, the receipts have been misplaced or lost during the intervening 100 years or more.

Mr. Robert L. Bass, Sr. of Beebe, Arkansas, a grandson of John Bass of Tippah County, Mississippi (last of Arkansas), recalls his grandfather's story about the inheritance he had been entitled to. Mr. Robert L. Bass even recalled that there had been several slaves in the estate, according to his grandfather's story, which of course was true, and which fact is verified by the inventory of the estate of Jordan Bass.



One or two other circumstances are to be considered regarding the Jordan Bass of Franklin County, North Carolina, who moved to Tennessee and then to Alabama where he died.

In 1953 I met and talked with Joseph Calloway Bass of Jacksonville, Texas. He is a grandson of Willis Bass, a son of Jordan Bass. Mr. Joseph C. Bass was a little over 80 years of age in 1953 but he was alert and active, and attending to business. After explaining the purpose of my visit, which was to talk family history, and after my telling him who his aunts and uncles were from the census records of the Willis Bass family, he told me many interesting facts about his aunts and uncles, where they moved, etc. And then he told me quite a lot about his grandfather Willis Bass. He told me Willis Bass considered a reliable man's word as his "bond" and would lend "gold" on such an understanding. He told me also that the Willis Bass family was from FRANKLIN COUNTY, North Carolina. He volunteered that information with no suggestion or explanation from me. Then he told of the wagon trip across from Alabama, of its hardships, as related to him when he was a boy.

Another factor to keep in mind is that Jacob Bass, Sr. of Franklin County, North Carolina, had a son Jacob Bass, Jr. Jacob Bass, Jr. also had a wife named Ann, but scrutiny of the records, including the dates of the records and the names of the witnesses all make it easy to distinguish the two persons named Ann and the two named Jacob Bass.

THE HISTORY OF THE  
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IN TWO VOLUMES  
BY NATHANIEL BENTLEY  
VOL. I.  
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J. B. ALLEN, 1822.



## II. JORDAN BASS of Randolph County, North Carolina

There was a Jordan Bass who died in Randolph County, North Carolina, in 1808. The 1790 census shows this Jordan Bass as being a resident of that county in 1790 and head of a house with four children in the household. The deeds in Randolph County referring to this Jordan Bass apparently begin on August 18, 1787 when he bought 148 acres from the State of North Carolina.<sup>65</sup> On January 1, 1793, he executed a deed in Randolph County,<sup>66</sup> and again in May 1795 he sold some land in Randolph County to a John Clark, and both men were of "Randolph County".<sup>67</sup> The latter part of 1794 and the first part of the year 1795 was when the estate of Jacob Bass, Sr. of Franklin County was being settled, and Jordan Bass, the son of Jacob Bass, Sr. was present in Franklin County during the period 1790-1795 as evidenced by the records,<sup>68</sup> and hence, should not be confused with Jordan Bass of Randolph County.

The will of the Jordan Bass of Randolph County, dated January 16, 1808, is on file in that county and it listed his wife as Rebecca and named sons Arthur, Henry, Benjamin and daughters Delilah, Jinny, Tabitha, and Lucy.<sup>69</sup> These children's names are inconsistent with family names of Jacob Bass, Sr. of Franklin County, North Carolina. There is some family name continuity among this family and the Bass family of Southampton County, Virginia.

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65. Deed Book 3, pg. 269, Randolph County, North Carolina

66. Deed Book 5, pg. 68, Randolph County, North Carolina

67. Deed Book 6, pgs. 89 and 133, Randolph County, North Carolina

68. See I hereof, supra.

69. Will Book 3, pgs. 89-90, Randolph County, North Carolina



### III. JORDAN BASS of Southampton County, Virginia

There is a record of a Jordan Bass on the 1782-1787 tax list for Southampton County, Virginia. That Jordan Bass left almost no records in that county, and he is not in the 1790 census for the county. It can be assumed that he moved away shortly after the death of his grandfather, Charles Bass, or that he died although there are no estate papers there for a Jordan Bass. Charles Bass, the grandfather of this Jordan Bass, died in Southampton County, and his will is recorded there on September 11, 1780,<sup>70</sup> and listed are sons Henry, Hardiman, Charles, Arthur, Nuit and daughter Mary Matthews, as well as various grandchildren named Roger Bass, Edwin Bass, Howell Bass, Dixon Bass, and a "grandson, Jordan Bass, son of my daughter Tabitha Bass". Therefore neither could this Jordan Bass have been the son of Jacob Bass, Sr. and wife Ann Bass of Franklin County, North Carolina.<sup>71</sup>

### IV. JORDAN BASS of Nash County, North Carolina

Consideration should be given to Jordan Bass the grandchild of Abraham Bass, a brother of Jacob Bass, Sr. That Jordan Bass was mentioned in the Will of Abraham Bass of June 17, 1803, which was probated in Nash County, North Carolina, in August, 1805.<sup>72</sup> The will of Abraham Bass bequeathed a negro called "Little Rose", and it was John Bass, Jr. who had a slave named "Great Rose". Also the will identifies several devisees in addition to Jordan Bass, including heirs of "Sion Bass and John Bass" and a daughter named Elizabeth Bridgers. Heirs of the deceased Sion and John Bass, who were sons of Abraham Bass, were listed as Jordan Bass, Polly Parker, Quinne Bass, Alden Bass, Kinchen Bass, John Bass, and Mourning Floyd. This Jordan Bass was a son of Sion Bass

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70. Will Book 3, pg. 307, Southampton County, Virginia.

71. See I hereof, supra.

72. Will Book 1, Nash County, North Carolina





the deceased son of Abraham Bass, according to descendants of Jordan Bass who live in Kentucky.<sup>73</sup> Further, this Jordan Bass moved from Nash County, North Carolina to Christian County, Kentucky, as late as about 1812, and the last record in Nash County by this Jordan Bass substantiates this family's tradition and the conclusion from the records. One of the last records in Nash County by this Jordan Bass is dated in 1810. Therefore, this Jordan Bass, the grandson of Abraham Bass, is also eliminated as the son of Jacob Bass, Sr.

#### V. JORDAN R. BASS of Nash County, North Carolina

This Jordan Bass was a grandson of Isaac Bass, who was the brother of the above named Jacob and Abraham Bass, and who were mentioned in the previous listing. The will of Isaac Bass was probated in Nash County in February, 1801.<sup>74</sup> The will lists among his children a child named Jesse Bass. This Jesse Bass (Sr.) of Nash County also died in Nash County and his will is recorded there and identifies his son Jordan Bass.<sup>75</sup> This Jordan Bass was born much later than the others by that name, and he resided in Nash County much later than the other Jordan Bass remained in this area of North Carolina. He later used the initial "R" in many of his records of deeds, etc. There are numerous records of this Jordan Bass but they do not begin until about the 1830's. One deed recorded on December 3, 1836,<sup>76</sup> in particular identifies him and states that he and several of his brothers and sisters (children of Jesse Bass, Sr. and grandchildren of Isaac Bass) were together disposing of some property on Peachtree Creek in Nash County, the land having belonged to their deceased father, Jesse Bass, Sr. There are other deeds, one dated October 22, 1833,<sup>77</sup> which states that Jordan Bass is of "Nash County" - therefore this Jordan Bass could not have been the son of Jacob Bass, Sr., due to his age, his remaining in the county, etc.

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73. Mr. W. C. Black, 310 Gano Road, Georgetown, Kentucky. Mr. Black has elaborately considered all the records. Deed Book 14, pg. 31, Aug. 1800, Nash County, N. C.

74. Will Book 1, Dec. 27, 1800, Nash County, N. C.

75. Will Book 1, pg. 323 (1822), Nash County, N. C.

76. Deed Book 16, pg. 205, Nash County, N. C.

77. Deed Book 16, pg. 9; and Deed Book 15, pg. 275, Nash County, N. C.



The factual recitals in the preceding deed in 1836 clearly identify Jordan Bass, a son of Jesse Bass, Sr., deceased, as being in Nash County in the 1830's - long after the Jordan Bass, grandson of Abraham Bass, and Jordan Bass, the son of Jacob Bass, Sr. had moved westward - one to Kentucky and the other to Tennessee. Also, the Jordan Bass, who was a son of Jesse Bass, Sr., eventually went to Mississippi and there were other members of his family there. This Jordan Bass was not born until about 1810, according to the census records, and for that and many other circumstances is to be distinguished from the others named Jordan Bass.















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